

ORIGINS OF A NATIONAL MYTH

will be primary sources, such as the immigrant's diary, the soldier's letters, the traveler's observations, and the Indian agent's reports. Many historical agencies and museum and library collections include writers' manuscripts and memorabilia. Program planners may wish to contact the director of their local historical society or museum to determine how materials from the archives can be incorporated in exhibits or used as supplements to reading and discussion. Staff of these institutions may be available to assist in focusing the content of the programs or even in helping to publicize events.

A Program Format: The Carpool Tour

One of the most popular program formats at the Tucson Public Library is the carpool tour. Past humanities projects have included trips to the excavation site of Snaketown, a prehistoric Hohokam village a hundred miles from Tucson, and an all-day tour on the Papago Indian Reservation, which featured visits to a cave, a shrine, and a village where a traditional meal was served by our hosts. Other carpool programs kept to the metropolitan area and involved much less time.

Carpool tours combine all the best elements of a successful program—they are easy to organize, they are stimulating, and the experience guarantees camaraderie, good will, a shared sense of purpose, and the undivided attention of the participants. We have chosen to feature the carpool tour as an innovative yet practical program idea for "Writers of the Purple Sage."

Humanities scholars, teachers, community resource people, and library and historical-society staff members can offer assistance in choosing the site(s) for your tour. It is important to work out a plan with the full knowledge and cooperation of those in residence at the sites. After the tour is scheduled, use the following checklist as an organizational tool for the detail work.

Ahead of Time:

1. Identify the scholars and interpreters you will need at each site; also select the support material, that is, photographs, bibliographies, etc.
2. Arrange to take the interpreters on a dry run of the tour. Write a trip log that includes directions and mileage (using the car odometer.) You might want to include significant